
REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated June 4, 2004. By this communication, Applicant has canceled claims 5 and 6, amended claim 3 to include the elements of claim 5, and amended claim 4 to include the elements of claim 6. Support for the subject matter added to claims 3 and 4 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in original claims 5 and 6. No new matter has been added.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 5 and 6. As detailed below, Applicant has incorporated the elements of these claims into independent claims 3 and 4 respectively. Thus, this application is in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 6 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter but objected to based on their dependency from rejected claims 3 and 4, respectively. Applicant has canceled claims 5 and 6, therefore, the objection to these claims is moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by *Jost et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,605,857. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution Applicant has amended claim 3 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5, and amended claim 4 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6. Moreover, because the Office Action indicated that claims 5 and 6 contained allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.


Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3 and 4 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-1199/CON from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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